

Civil Engineering Graduate Program

Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, University of Houston

(Degree Requirements and Other Related Information)

MSCE (thesis option)

Requirements:

- Minimum credit hours: 31 credit hours.
- 7 graduate-level (6000 level or above) courses (21 credit hours) (All courses taken require the prior approval from advisors. At most 2 courses in approved related fields outside Civil Engineering may be counted toward the degree. At most 3 credit hours may be 5000 level)
- 1 seminar (1 credit hour): CIVE6111
- Nine credit hours of research/thesis (3 research hours and 6 thesis hours) (CIVE6398, CIVE6399, CIVE7399): Take CIVE6399 one time. CIVE6398 (or other CIVE6X98), CIVE7399 can be repeated. CIVE6399 must be taken before CIVE7399 or concurrently.
- A final GPA of at least B (3.0/4.0) over all course attempted must be achieved. If the GPA is below 3.0, you have to continue taking courses (more than 7 courses) to satisfy the minimum GPA requirement.
- Successfully defend a thesis.

Other information:

1. No course with a grade less than C will be counted toward the degree program, but the grade will be included in calculating the GPA.
2. For the case of switching from Ph.D. to MSCE, the required CIVE6398 can be replaced by CIVE8398. Similarly, the 8x99 dissertation hours may be counted toward MS thesis hours. (However, the switch from Ph.D. to MSCE requires the approval from all levels and the Dean's office may reject the petition.)
3. The thesis committee form (can be downloaded from <http://www.cive.uh.edu/resources/forms>) must be completed and approved at the beginning (within two weeks) of the semester scheduled for defense. The committee shall consist of at least two Civil Engineering faculty members from your major area (including the advisor), and at least one faculty member from outside the Civil Engineering program.
4. Six credit hours may be transferred from courses taken from other Universities in US with grade B or above after review.

5. Apply for graduation before the deadline (generally it is within a month after semester starts) during the semester you expect to graduate. The department will not process the petition for late application for graduation at the end of the semester without a justified reason.
6. Fill the degree plan form (also as early as possible) (The form in Word file can be downloaded from <http://www.cive.uh.edu/resources/forms>). Please fill the form carefully with all required course credit hours, seminar credit hours, and required research/dissertation hours. The form can be modified to make lines for filling all required credit hours. If there are required prerequisites or leveling courses, those courses need also to be filled in the form. Please sign your name after the completion of the form (preferred within one page) and send it to the Graduate Program Coordinator (Jose Rodriguez) for processing of the approval and follow-up paper works
7. Check with the Dean's office on the deadlines related to the defense and completion of the final thesis. These include (1) last day to submit to the Dean's office for review/formal check (2) last day to defend, and (3) last day to submit final copy.
8. Schedule a time and date for defense. Copies of completed thesis must be given to each committee member at least two weeks before the scheduled defense.
9. Announcement of defense of thesis with an abstract must also be sent to faculty and graduate students.
10. Minimum 3 credit hours (either research or thesis hours) are required to be enrolled in the semester scheduled for thesis defense (and/or applying for graduation). Reduced course load (RCL) form for international students must be filed and approved before the semester starts. (Make sure the reduced course hours are consistent with what you actually register.)
11. The reduced course load can only be applied once (the last semester). If you are not able to graduate (does not defend the thesis) the semester reduced course load is applied, you are required to register full 9 hours next semester. If you are not able to graduate (although successfully defend thesis, but miss the deadline of submitting the final copies of thesis), you are allowed to just register 1 credit hour (e.g. CIVE6198) for applying for graduation.
12. The University has a 4C rule. A grade of "C+" or less in the four courses attempted during the program shall result in automatic dismissal from MSCE studies.
13. The same course cannot be attempted more than two times; a grade of "W" is considered an attempt.
14. The conditionally accepted students are required to file a petition to change the status from "conditional" to "unconditional" as soon as the posed conditions are successfully completed. Students are not allowed to graduate with a "conditional" status.
15. A student must complete his/her MSCE program within 5 years from the date of first enrollment.
16. After successfully defend the thesis and graduate, please remind your advisor to change the grades of CIVE6399 and CIVE7399 from "IP" to a letter grade.

MSCE (Non-thesis option)

Requirements:

- Minimum credit hours: 31 credit hours.
- 10 graduate-level (6000 level or above) courses (30 credit hours) (All courses taken require the prior approval. At most 2 courses in approved related fields outside Civil Engineering may be counted toward the degree. With justification an additional course taking outside Civil Engineering may be counted. At most 3 credit hours may be 5000 level.)
- 1 seminar (1 credit hour): CIVE6111
- A final GPA of at least B (3.0/4.0) over all course attempted must be achieved. If the GPA is below 3.0, you have to continue taking courses (more than 10 courses) to satisfy the minimum GPA requirement.

Other information:

1. No course with a grade less than C will be counted toward the degree program, but the grade will be included in calculating the GPA.
2. No independent study or research course will be counted toward the degree program (Special cases may be reviewed for approval).
3. Six credit hours may be transferred from courses taken from other Universities in US with grade of B or above after review.
4. Apply for graduation before the deadline (generally it is within a month after semester starts) during the semester you expect to graduate. The department will not process the petition for late application for graduation at the end of the semester without a justified reason.
5. Fill the degree plan form (also as early as possible) (The form in Word file can be downloaded from <http://www.cive.uh.edu/resources/forms>). Please fill the form carefully with all required course credit hours, seminar credit hours, and required research/dissertation hours. The form can be modified to make lines for filling all required credit hours. If there are required prerequisites or leveling courses, those courses need also to be filled in the form. Please sign your name after the completion of the form (preferred within one page) and send it to the Graduate Program Coordinator (Jose Rodriguez) for processing of the approval and follow-up paper works.
6. Minimum 3 credit hours are required to be enrolled in the semester applying for graduation. Reduced course load (RCL) form for international students must be filed and approved before the semester starts. (Make sure the reduced course hours are consistent with what you actually register.)

7. The reduced course load for international students can only be applied once (the last semester).
8. The University has a 4C rule. A grade of "C+" or less in the four courses attempted during the program shall result in automatic dismissal from MSCE studies.
9. The same course cannot be attempted more than two times; a grade of "W" is considered an attempt.
10. The conditionally accepted students are required to file a petition to change the status from “conditional” to “unconditional” as soon as the posed conditions are successfully completed. Students are not allowed to graduate with a “conditional” status.
11. A student must complete his/her MSCE program within 5 years from the date of first enrollment.

Ph.D. in Civil Engineering

Requirements:

- Required courses and credit hours (The following are minimum requirements that may be exceeded in any case)

M.S. to Ph.D.- A total of at least 24-credit hours of course work (8 courses) beyond the M.S. (excluding prerequisites and remedial courses) is required for the Ph.D. degree in the following way:

- A minimum of 12 hours of credit (4 courses) in Civil Engineering Courses (6000 level or above numbered courses) in your major and supporting areas.
- Courses in related fields of study outside Civil Engineering may be taken at 5000 level or above. If justified, a course in 4000 level outside Civil Engineering may be accepted with a prior approval. A maximum of 6 hours with numbers below 6000 will be allowed; additional courses must be 6000 level or above.

B.S. to Ph.D.- A total of at least 36-credit hours of course work (12 courses) (excluding prerequisites and remedial courses) is required for you going directly from the B.S. degree to the Ph.D. degree in the following way:

- A minimum of 18 hours of credit (6 courses) in Civil Engineering Courses (6000 level or above numbered courses) in the student's major and supporting areas.
- Courses in related fields of study outside Civil Engineering may be taken at 5000 level or above. If justified, a course in 4000 level outside Civil Engineering may be accepted with a prior approval. A maximum of 6 hours with numbers below 6000 will be allowed; additional courses must be 6000 level or above.

- Two seminars: CIVE6111
- At least 30-credit hours in research and dissertation; this includes a minimum of 18 Ph.D. research hours (any combination of CIVE 8198 through 8598) and exactly 12 hours of dissertation hours at later semesters (any combination of CIVE 8399, 8699, or 8999).
- Pass the qualifying examination (See the qualifying exam policy).
- Pass the research proposal examination (at the time to form the dissertation committee-See below)
- A final GPA of at least 3.25/4.0 over all course attempted in the Ph.D. program must be achieved. (This policy was passed in Spring 2013 and adopted in Fall 2013. The students accepted in and after Fall 2013 shall follow this policy. The students accepted before Fall 2013 can follow either the new policy or the old policy, which has 3.0/4.0 as the minimum GPA requirement.)
- Successfully defend a dissertation.

Other information

1. The dissertation committee shall consist of at least three Civil Engineering faculty members from your major area (including the advisor), and at least two faculty members from outside the Civil Engineering program. Also, at least 4 members must be UH faculty. The dissertation committee must be formed and approved before the defense of the research proposal (Preliminary exam), which taken after passing the qualifying exam.
2. No Civil Engineering course with a grade of less than a "B-" shall count within the degree program. A maximum of six hours of courses outside Civil Engineering with a grade of "C+" shall be counted within the degree program.
3. Six credit hours may be transferred from courses taken from other Universities in US with grade B or above after review.
4. The University has a 4C rule. A grade of "C+" or less in the four courses attempted during the program shall result in automatic dismissal from MSCE studies.
5. The same course cannot be attempted more than two times; a grade of "W" is considered an attempt.
6. The conditionally accepted students are required to file a petition to change the status from “conditional” to “unconditional” as soon as the posed conditions are successfully completed. Students are not allowed to graduate with a “conditional” status.
7. A student must complete his/her Ph.D. program within 10 years from the date of first enrollment.

Issues related to the semester applying for graduation (schedule for defense of dissertation)

1. The dissertation committee with at least 5 members should have been formed at the time conducting the research proposal examination. The same committee members will serve as the dissertation defense committee. If there is a change of the committee members, a petition to request the changes and the revisions of the committee form is required to be approved before the scheduled defense.
2. Apply for graduation before the deadline (generally is within a month after semester starts).
3. Fill the degree plan form (also as early as possible) (The form in Word file can be downloaded from <http://www.cive.uh.edu/resources/forms>). Please fill the form carefully with all required course credit hours, seminar credit hours, and research/dissertation hours. The form can be modified to make lines for filling all required credit hours. If there are required prerequisites or leveling courses, those courses need also to be filled in the form. Please sign your name after the completion of the form and send it to the Graduate Program Coordinator (Jose Rodriguez) for processing of the approval and follow-up paper works.
4. Check with the Dean’s office on the deadlines related to the defense and completion of the final dissertation. These include (1) last day to submit the dissertation to the Dean’s

office for review/formal check (2) last day to defend, and (3) last day to submit the final copy.

5. Schedule a time and date for defense. Copies of completed dissertation must be given to each committee member at least two weeks before the scheduled defense.
6. Announcement of defense of dissertation with an abstract must also be sent to faculty and graduate students.
7. After successfully defend the dissertation and graduate, please remind your advisor to change the grades of the dissertation courses (12 hours of CIVE8X99s) from “IP” to a letter grade.
8. Minimum 3 credit hours (dissertation hours) are required to be enrolled. Reduced course load (RCL) form for international students must be filed and approved before the semester starts. (Make sure the reduced course hours are consistent with what you actually register.)
9. The reduced course load can only be applied once (the last semester). If you are not able to graduate (does not defend the dissertation) the semester reduced course load is applied, you are required to register full 9 hours next semester. If you are not able to graduate (although successfully defend dissertation, but miss the deadline of submitting the final copies of dissertation), you are allowed to just register 1 credit hour (e.g. CIVE8198) for applying for graduation.